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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, APRIL 2, 2001

APPLICATION OF

TOUCH AMERICA, INC.-VIRGINIA

CASE NO. PUC000273

For a certificate of public  
convenience and necessity to  
provide facilities-based  
interexchange telecommunications  
services

FINAL ORDER

On October 13, 2000, Touch America, Inc.-Virginia ("Touch America" or the "Company"), filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide interexchange telecommunications services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Company also requested authority to price its interexchange telecommunications services on a competitive basis pursuant to § 56-481.1 of the Code of Virginia.

By Order dated December 20, 2000, the Commission directed the Company to provide notice to the public of its application, directed the Commission Staff to conduct an investigation and file a Staff Report, and provided interested persons with the opportunity to comment and request a hearing on Touch America's application.

Touch America filed proof of publication and proof of service on February 2, 2001, as required by the December 20, 2000, Order.

On March 6, 2001, the Staff filed its Report finding that Touch America's application was in compliance with the Rules Governing the Certification of Interexchange Carriers ("IXC Rules"). Based upon its review of Touch America's application, the Staff determined it would be appropriate to grant the Company a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered the application and the Staff Report, finds that the Company should be granted a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services. Having considered § 56-481.1, the Commission further finds that the Company may price its interexchange telecommunications services competitively.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) Touch America, Inc.-Virginia is hereby granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity, No. TT-145A, to provide interexchange telecommunications services subject to the restrictions set forth in the Commission's Rules Governing the Certification of Interexchange Carriers, § 56-265.4:4 of the Code of Virginia, and the provisions of this Order.

(2) The Company shall provide tariffs to the Division of Communications that conform with all applicable Commission rules and regulations.

(3) Pursuant to § 56-481.1 of the Code of Virginia, the Company may price its interexchange telecommunications services competitively.

(4) There being nothing further to come before the Commission, this case shall be dismissed and the papers filed herein placed in the file for ended causes.